

**SANTA FE COUNTY
OPEN LAND, TRAILS AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (COLTPAC)
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025, 6:00 PM**

1. OPENING BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Open Land, Trails and Parks Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Mann at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

B. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Mann, Chair
Steven Forde, Vice Chair
Bryan Bird
Paige Grant
Ameila Adair
Dan Potter
Tom Dominguez
(District 3 Vacancy)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Deirdre Monroe

OTHERS PRESENT

Adeline Murthy, Open Space and Trails Planning Team Leader
Joseph Scala, Community Planner
Marvelous Echeng, Transportation Planner
Herbert Foster, Planning Team Leader
Commissioner Hank Hughes

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

D. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 6, 2025 COLTPAC MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 05/14/2026

E. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 COLTPAC MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

A. INTRODUCTIONS

County staff and Commissioner Hughes introduced themselves.

3. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

A. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

4. ACTION ITEMS

A. POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING A POLICY FOR THE DISPOSITION OR CHANGE OF USE OF OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES

The Committee discussed and word smithed the document.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Forde, seconded by Ms. Adair, to table item 4 (A) to a special meeting, the date to be decided.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. LA BAJADA RANCH PLANNING

Mr. Scala gave an update regarding La Bajada Ranch that included the background of the purchase of the land in 2009, the plan for development, and the possible formation of a working group.

Mr. Scala said that he discussed a working group to give recommendations regarding the plan with the County Manager. The County Manager suggested that the working group be appointed by County Commissioners. We have proposed that the working group be a working group of COLTPAC. We will be discussing this with the County Manager. He would like to have a discussion today about this possibility and if COLTPAC has the capacity to do this.

There was discussion regarding La Bajada Ranch and the working group composition and capacity.

Mr. Dominguez stated that he had been part of this project through the Extension Service. His work was regarding the irrigation system. In his opinion, the soil is depleted. He feels the vineyard would be the best way to go. Community gardens have been discussed, but with the soil condition and the distance to the site, it seems the vineyard would be a better choice. One of the other issues was the cattle getting in; a perimeter fence would be good. There are two houses there. The larger house is in poor condition and the roof has fallen in. The smaller house is in pretty good condition. Part of the road is washed out. It is a nice place with good potential. It will take a lot of work and money.

There was a discussion regarding water rights. Mr. Scala said that Mr. Mancuso owns the water rights. The County has an agricultural lease.

There was discussion about the relationship of Tres Rios Ranch to La Bajada Ranch, and the potential to create a trailhead and southern access point to Caja del Rio through the two properties.

Mr. Scala said he will speak with Alexandra Ladd and give the Committee an update as soon as possible. This will be an informational item for today.

Chair Mann said he thinks the Committee is willing to host the working group, but we will have to address resource issues.

Mr. Dominguez said this project will take a long term commitment from the County.

B. COLTPAC PRIORITIES FOR 2026 OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND PARKS WORK PLAN

Ms. Murthy summarized the status of the 2025 Work Plan.

Chair Mann said we will review the 2025 Work Plan in detail at the special meeting.

Ms. Murthy stated that the staff priorities for the 2026 plan include the planning of Bobcat Ranch, which is the only new project. The other staff priorities are new phases of projects that are already happening. We would like the Committee's ideas of additions to the list.

There was discussion regarding trail connections, wildlife corridor connections

and the volunteer program.

Ms. Murthy will send out a follow up email asking for additions from the Committee members to be discussed at the special meeting.

6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Forde said he circulated a document regarding the Volunteer Program. He reviewed the document, including volunteer opportunities, saying that this is a preliminary document. He would like to propose that a working group be formed for this project.

Ms. Murthy will send out an email to the members to see who is interested in serving on the working group.

Ms. Grant gave a report on the recent visit to OMOS [Ortiz Mountains Open Space], saying Dr. Craig Allen feels that we need to develop and apply a prescribed burn plan. He suggested it might be useful to have Dr. Ellis Margolis prepare a fire history of the property. Ms. Grant would like to get going on this. What are the next steps.

Ms. Murthy said the first step would be for the working group to submit to the Committee a list of recommendations.

Ms. Grant will work with the group to produce the list of recommendations.

7. MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. UPDATE ON SCALING UP THE OPEN SPACE & TRAILS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Ms. Murthy gave an update on the Volunteer Program, including the issues of liability of volunteers and a waiver.

Ms. Murthy reported that the Volunteer Coordinator position is funded and will be moving into our team. It has not been posted yet.

B. UPDATE ON THE ACQUISITION OF BOBCAT CROSSING RANCH

Ms. Murthy said that the County closed on the Bobcat Crossing Ranch property on October 9th.

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C. UPDATE ON FILLING COMMITTEE VACANCY

Ms. Murthy said that she has been working on filling the District 3 vacancy. Two qualified candidates will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on Monday.

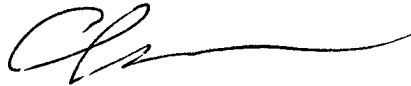
8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

9. ADJOURNMENT

A. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.



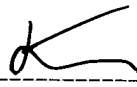
Chris Mann, Chair

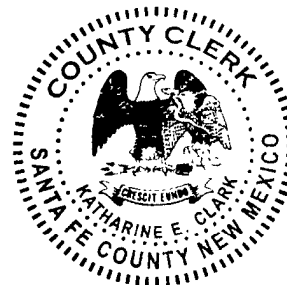


Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

COUNTY OF SANTA FE) COLTPAC MINUTES
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 5

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 14TH Day Of May, 2026 at 03:38:16 PM And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2083524 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office Katharine E. Clark County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



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